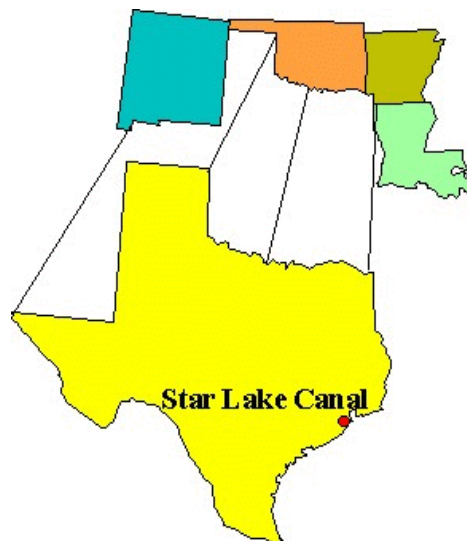


STAR LAKE CANAL

EPA ID# TX0001414341

EPA REGION 6

Congressional District 9
Jefferson County, Texas
Site Summary Updated: October 30, 2001



Site Description

- Location:** ● The Star Lake Canal Superfund Site (hereinafter “the Site”) is located in Port Neches, Texas, an industrial city adjacent to the Neches River in East Texas in center of the Beaumont-Orange-Port Arthur Golden Triangle.
- Population:** ● Approximately 14,452 people reside in Port Neches. Other communities in the area include Port Arthur, Groves, and Nederland.
- Setting:** ● The Jefferson Canal was constructed in the late 1940s as an industrial wastewater and stormwater outfall. The Star Lake Canal was constructed after 1948 for the same purpose. In response to contamination discovered during dredging in the Jefferson Canal, the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission collected sediment samples in 1996 and 1998 from the Jefferson Canal, Star Lake Canal, and the wetland area bordering Molasses Bayou. Both canals are currently being utilized for industrial and stormwater purposes.
- The land use surrounding the Site is industrial, residential, and recreational.
- Hydrology:** ● The Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study being planned for the Site by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will determine the hydrology for the Site, including other Site characteristics.

Wastes and Volumes

- The Jefferson and Star Lake Canals have received industrial wastewater and stormwater discharges from local chemical and other manufacturing facilities for a number of years. This Site was added to the National Priorities List (NPL) based on evidence that hazardous substances, including chromium, copper, polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons, and polychlorinated biphenyls have migrated or could potentially migrate to Molasses Bayou, Star Lake Canal, Neches River, Sabine Lake, and their associated wetlands.
- The nature and extent of contamination at the Site and the risks posed to human health and the environment from the contaminants present at the Site are currently unknown.

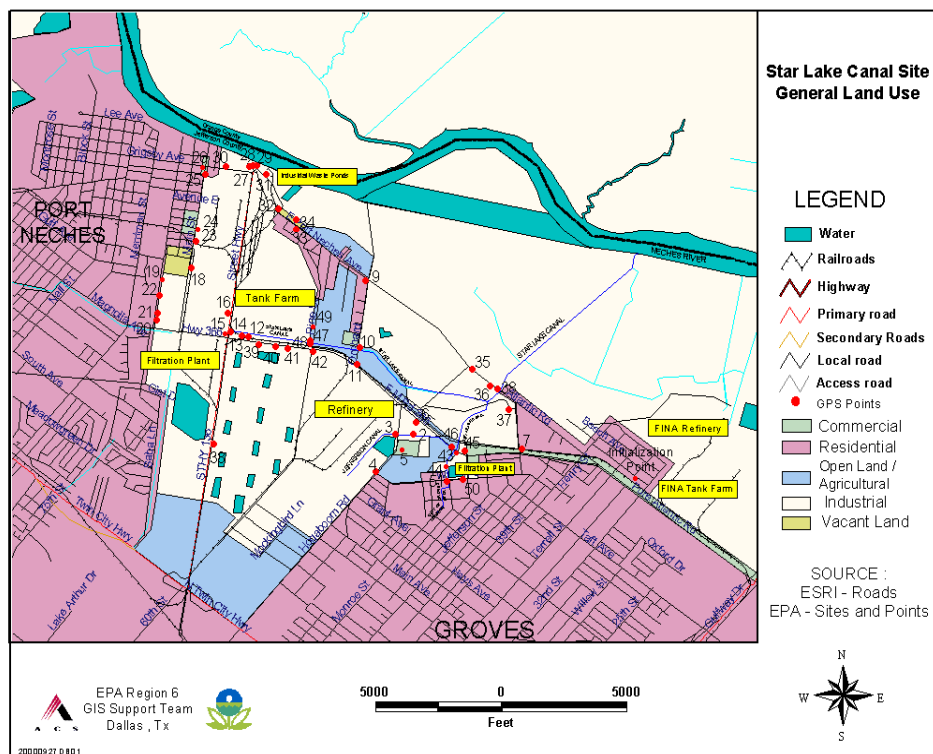
Site Assessment and Ranking

NPL LISTING HISTORY

Proposed Date: 7/22/99

Final Date: 8/28/00

Site Map and Photographs*



*View the photographs of the Site at the link at the bottom of the “Superfund Site Status Summaries for Texas” web page at:

www.epa.gov/earth1r6/6sf/6sf-tx.htm

The Remediation Process

Remedial Activities:

- The EPA is currently planning a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) for the Site. The purpose of the RI/FS is to determine the nature and extent of contamination and gather sufficient information about the Site to support an informed risk management decision regarding which remedy is the most appropriate for the Site.

Health Considerations:

- Some of the contaminants present at the Site are known carcinogens.

Environmental Risks:

- The contaminants present at the Site may be impacting an extensive wetland area.

Record of Decision

A Record of Decision has not been signed for the Star Lake Canal Superfund Site.

Community Involvement

- The EPA will conduct community relations activities that will address the concerns and issues of importance to community members throughout the Superfund process.
- Site Repository: United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA Region 6) Library; 1445 Ross Avenue; Suite 1200; Dallas, TX 75202-2733.

Technical Assistance Grant

- A Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) is for a local citizens' group to secure the services of a technical advisor to increase citizen understanding of information that will be developed about the Site during the Superfund process. By law, only one grant for up to \$50,000 may be awarded to a citizens' group for this Site. To be eligible for a grant, a group must incorporate. Also, the applicant must meet a 20 percent matching requirement, which may be in cash or donated services. If you are interested in applying for a TAG, please call Ms. Beverly Negri (TAG Assistant) at (214) 665-8157 or toll-free at 1-800-533-3508.
- A Notice of Availability for the TAG was published in the "Port Arthur News" on

August 28, 2000.

- A Letter of Intent to apply for a TAG was received by the EPA on October 12, 2000, from Ms. Edna Gonzales (Southeast Texas Procter Street Center, Inc.; 3046 Procter St.; Port Arthur, Texas 77642; telephone number - 409/983/2019). A TAG application has not been submitted.
- Grant Award: None.

Program and Fiscal Management

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

- **Rafael A. Casanova** (Remedial Project Manager):
Contact for technical questions (Bilingual - Spanish/English), (214) 665-7437*, E-Mail Address - casanova.rafael@epa.gov
- **Rafael A. Casanova** (Community Involvement Coordinator):
Contact for community relations, (Bilingual - Spanish/English), (214) 665-7437*, E-Mail Address - casanova.rafael@epa.gov
- **Edwin Quinones** (Attorney):
(Contact for Legal Questions, (214) 665-8035, E-Mail Address - quinones.edwin@epa.gov
- **Karen Bond** (State Coordinator):
(Contact for State/EPA Cooperative Agreements, (214) 665-6682*, E-Mail Address - bond.karen@epa.gov
- **Lydia Behn** (Enforcement Officer):
Contact for cost recovery questions, (214) 665-8419*, E-Mail Address - behn.lydia@epa.gov
- **Arnold Ondarza** (Ombudsman):
Contact for dispute resolution, 1-800-533-3508, E-Mail Address - ondarza.arnold@epa.gov
- ***Toll-Free Number:** 1-800-533-3508.

Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission

- **Robert Wucher** (Project Manager):
Contact for technical questions, (512) 239-2494, E-Mail Address - rwucher@tnrcc.state.texas.us

Present Status and Issues

- A Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) is currently being planned for the Site. The purpose of the RI/FS is to determine the nature and extent of

contamination and gather sufficient information about the Site to support an informed risk management decision regarding which remedy is the most appropriate for the Site.

- The EPA is currently performing enforcement actions to identify the Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs) for the Site. The EPA issued General Notice Letters (GNLs) to the PRPs on July 11, 2001. The GNLs notify PRPs of their potential liability; as defined by Section 107(a) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act; 42 U.S.C. Section 9607(a), as amended (CERCLA); that they may incur or may have incurred with respect to the Site. The GNLs also notify the PRPs of the potential response activities at the Site which they may be asked to perform or finance at a later date. The EPA requested a response within thirty (30) days of their receipt of the GNLs. The EPA issued 104(e) Information Request Letters to the PRPs on July 17, 2001, to learn more about the Site. The EPA requested a response to several questions about the Site within thirty (30) days of their receipt of the letters. The EPA has extended these time lines at the request of several PRPs. The EPA is currently evaluating additional enforcement actions.

Benefits

- The cleanup of contamination present at the Site will ensure the protection of human health and the environment.